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Main decisions and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit a report on the main decisions and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security.

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Report on the main decisions and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security

[Original: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish]

Introduction

1. This report responds to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) decision 2011/217, in which the Council invited the Chair of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) to transmit to ECOSOC every year a report on the main decisions and policy recommendations, and the results achieved by the Committee in the area of food security and nutrition, in accordance with its roles and vision. More information regarding the roles and vision of the Committee can be found in documents A/66/76-E/2011/102 and A/65/73-E/2010/51. The report describes the main outcomes and decisions taken by the Forty-second Session of CFS held in October 2015 and, where relevant, provides updates on follow-up action. The Final Report of the Session is available at http://www.fao.org/3/a-mo943e.pdf. The Forty-third Session of CFS will take place in October 2016.

Main decisions, recommendations and results

Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises

2. The Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises was endorsed at the 42nd Session of CFS. It is intended to guide the development, implementation and monitoring of policies and actions to improve food security and nutrition in protracted crisis situations. The Framework for Action describes how to address critical food insecurity and undernutrition manifestations and build resilience in protracted crises in a way that is adapted to the specific challenges of these situations, that avoids exacerbating underlying causes and, where possible, contributes to resolving them.

3. CFS recommended actions along the following principles:

- Meet immediate humanitarian needs and build resilient livelihoods;
- Focus on nutritional needs;
- Reach affected populations;
- Protect those affected by or at risk of protracted crises;
- Empower women and girls, promote gender equality and encourage gender sensitivity;
- Ensure and support comprehensive evidence-based analyses;
- Strengthen country ownership, participation, coordination and stakeholder buy-in, and accountability;
- Promote effective financing;
- Contribute to peacebuilding through food security and nutrition;
- Manage natural resources sustainably and reduce disaster risks;
- Promote effective national and local governance.

4. The Committee requested that the United Nations General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, consider, endorse and ensure the wide dissemination of the Framework for Action to all relevant United Nations Organizations and Agencies.

Water for Food Security and Nutrition

5. The High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) presented in 2015 a report on *Water for Food Security and Nutrition*. The report was used as the basis for a policy discussion at the Forty-second Session of CFS held in October 2015. Policy recommendations resulting from the discussions and endorsed by the Plenary are provided in the Final Report of CFS 42.

6. As a result of the policy discussions on *Water for Food Security and Nutrition*, the Committee recalled the intrinsic linkages between water and food security and nutrition. It stressed the key role of water in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and encouraged all relevant stakeholders to address the challenges related to water's contribution to food security and nutrition through both ecosystem and people-centred approaches.

7. CFS recommended actions by appropriate stakeholders along the following lines:

- Promote conservation and sustainable management of ecosystems for the continued availability, quality and reliability of water for food security and nutrition;
- Improve coherence between water and food security and nutrition related policies, strategies and plans;
- Achieve equal access to water for all, prioritize the most vulnerable and marginalized at all ages and empower women and youth;
- Improve the efficiency and diversity of water use and the productivity of agricultural systems for food security and nutrition;
- Manage risk and increase resilience to water variability for food security and nutrition;
- Develop and share knowledge, technologies and tools related to water for food security and nutrition;
- Foster inclusive and effective collaboration and national and local governance on water for food security and nutrition;
- Promote the full and meaningful implementation of international human rights obligations and instruments as they relate to water for food security and nutrition.

Forthcoming work of the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE)

8. The HLPE will present a report in July 2016 on *Sustainable Agricultural Development for Food Security and Nutrition, Including the Role of Livestock* and has been requested to present reports in 2017 on *Nutrition and Food Systems* and on *Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition*. These reports will provide the evidence base to inform future policy convergence work of the Committee.

Connecting Smallholders to Markets

9. The Committee was informed of the outcomes of the High-Level Forum on Connecting Smallholders to Markets which brought together a wide range of stakeholders to discuss policy implications, challenges and lessons learned of how farmers have created beneficial and sustainable linkages to markets. It led to the identification of priority areas such as supporting smallholders' collective action, providing key financial and non-financial services, developing partnerships between smallholders and other private sector actors, and the role of public investment and policy frameworks.

10. It was decided that these outcomes should be further analysed with a view to preparing a set of recommendations and practices on this matter for endorsement by the CFS Plenary at its Forty-third Session in 2016.

Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW)

11. The Committee adopted its Multi-Year Programme of Work for the biennium 2016-2017. It has also approved a revised guidance note outlining the criteria and process for the selection of CFS activities.

12. The work of CFS over 2016-17 is outlined below. In addition, CFS will hold forums on Urbanization, Rural Transformation and Implications for Food Security and Nutrition in 2016 and on Women's Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition in 2017.

CFS and its role in advancing nutrition

13. At the Forty-second Session of the Committee, all CFS constituencies confirmed their support for CFS to play a more important role in advancing nutrition within its mandate, adding value to existing work and fostering synergies.

14. CFS stakeholders are currently preparing a proposal highlighting a clear vision for CFS role in nutrition and identifying areas where it can play a major role to be presented at the 43rd Session of the Committee in October 2016. CFS is expected to make a significant contribution to ongoing efforts to fight malnutrition, including the implementation of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) recommendations, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Decade for Action on Nutrition.

CFS engagement with Sustainable Development Goals

15. CFS stakeholders shared views at the Forty-second Session of the Committee on the role of CFS in engaging with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They called for CFS to put the achievement of the SDGs at the centre of its work, recognizing that CFS offers a unique opportunity to share lessons learned, good practices, report on progress made and address emerging challenges or policy gaps on food security and nutrition. It was also recalled that implementing existing CFS policy instruments can make an important contribution to advancing on Goal 2 and other related goals and targets.

16. In this context, a consultative process is underway on how the Committee, building on its global, multi-stakeholder and evidence-based nature, could contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and support global thematic

reviews on progress related to food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture by the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). A proposal will be presented for approval at CFS' 43rd Session in October 2016.

Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF)

17. The Committee endorsed the Fourth Version of the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF 2015) which includes the policy recommendations for *Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture for Food Security and Nutrition* and *Food Losses and Waste in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems* that were endorsed at CFS 41 in 2014 as well as the statistical figures included in the FAO State of Food Insecurity (SOFI) 2014.

18. It was also decided that a targeted review of the GSF be carried out in order to incorporate references to major new international developments in the area of food security and nutrition and streamline the content of the chapter which includes CFS policy recommendations. This process will be an opportunity to consider how to promote, use and disseminate the GSF among stakeholders more effectively. A consultative process, involving all interested stakeholders, is underway, and is expected to result in an updated GSF for endorsement by the Forty-fourth Session of CFS in 2017.

Monitoring CFS Decisions and Recommendations

19. **The Committee considered the results of the CFS Effectiveness Survey and recognized that it provided an initial snapshot of the situation which enables some general conclusions on how CFS is performing towards the vision defined in the CFS Reform. The survey showed overall CFS was ranked positively on its relevance, the evidence base supporting its work and the *potential* of its policy products to have an impact. The ability of CFS to be inclusive and participatory was perceived differently across different groups of respondents. The results show that more emphasis should be put on coordination with other relevant initiatives, in particular at the regional level, the actual impact of CFS products, and the communication of CFS products and its multi-stakeholder model.**

20. **The Committee continued to encourage CFS stakeholders to share their experiences and good practices concerning the implementation of CFS decisions and recommendations at national, regional and global levels, as a contribution to CFS monitoring. Terms of reference are being developed to provide guidance to interested stakeholders on sharing their lessons and good practices. They will be presented for adoption at CFS 43 in October 2016. These Terms of reference will specifically serve as a framework for the organization of global thematic events within CFS plenary sessions to take stock of the use and application of CFS products. In this context, the Committee agreed that a global thematic event on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VG GT) be held, four years after their adoption, at the Forty-third Session of CFS.**

Evaluation of CFS Effectiveness

21. **The Committee requested that an external evaluation be carried out in 2016 to assess the effectiveness of CFS since its reform in 2009, as endorsed at its Fortieth Session within the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) for 2014-2015. The purpose is to assess the extent to which CFS performing its roles, its efficiency, effectiveness and impact of its work. It will review CFS decision-making and planning processes to analyse how they influence the results achieved by the Committee. It should result in recommendations to enable CFS to respond effectively to emerging challenges, to strengthen its comparative advantage and leadership as a multi-stakeholder body in improving global food security and nutrition. The evaluation will also generate learning on multi-stakeholder collaboration.**

Report of the 42nd Session of the Committee on World Food Security (Rome, 12-15 October 2015)

The full Final Report of the Forty-second Session of the Committee on World Food Security, which was held at FAO Headquarters in Rome, from 12 to 15 October 2015, can be found at the following link: http://www.fao.org/3/a-mo943e.pdf.

The Report includes Appendix A — Agenda of the Session; Appendix B — Membership of the Committee; and Appendix C — List of Documents.